

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 226183

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ORIGIN EA-09

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

S E C R E T STATE 226183

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: MOPS, KS

SUBJECT: EXERCISE FOCUS LENS

1. DEPARTMENT IS TAKING POSITION EXERCISE FOCUS LENS SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER CONCLUSION UNGA IN EARLY DECEMBER. AT SAME TIME, WE HAVE CONCERN ABOUT NATURE OF EXERCISE AS EXPLAINED TO US.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 2, DEFENSE REQUESTED OUR CONCURRENCE IN THIS YEAR'S EXERCISE FOCUS LENS TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER. BRIEFING PAPERS PROVIDED BY DEFENSE CONTAINED TWO SURPRISES. FIRST, THEY DESCRIBED THIS YEAR'S FOCUS LENS AS BEING DESIGNED TO TEST THE "OPERATIONAL FEASIBILITY AND LOGISTIC SUPPORTABILITY OF THE SHORT WAR CONCEPT." WE ASSUME THIS TO MEAN THAT THE EXERCISE WILL BE BASED ON CINCUNC'S REPORTED NEW PLAN FOR DEFENDING THE ROK AS CLOSE TO THE DMZ AS POSSIBLE. SECOND, A LARGE ROK-US STAFF HAS BEEN AT WORK FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS ON THIS EXERCISE, PRESUMABLY WORKING ON THE BASIS OF THIS NEW PLAN.

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 226183

3. DEFENSE OFFICIALS FROM WHOM WE SOUGHT FURTHER INFORMATION READILY CONCEDED THEY KNEW LITTLE ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THIS YEAR'S FOCUS LENS, THAT CINCUNC'S PROPOSED SHORT WAR PLAN HAD NOT YET BEEN FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON FOR

REVIEW, AND THAT IT HAS NO OFFICIAL STANDING. WE
THEREFORE QUESTION THE ADVISABILITY OF BASING FOCUS LENS
ON THIS PLAN AND OF BRINGING IN THE KOREANS BEFORE
ANYONE IN WASHINGTON HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASSESS
THE PLAN ITSELF.

4. IN VIEW ABSENCE OF WASHINGTON APPROVAL FOR SHORT WAR
PLAN, DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE APPRECIATED ADVANCE NOTIFI-
CATION OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN EXERCISE FOCUS LENS,
INCLUDING SHORT WAR PLAN. WE DO NOT KNOW IF EMBASSY
WAS INFORMED OF THESE CHANGES, BUT DEPARTMENT AND OTHER
WASHINGTON AGENCIES SHOULD BE ALERTED, THROUGH STADIS
CHANNELS IF NECESSARY, IN EARLY STAGES OF PLANNING FOR
SIGNIFICANT EXERCISES IF THERE IS MAJOR POLICY CONTENT
IN AN EXERCISE. INGERSOLL

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